

New Melones Lake's New Resource Manager Alex Michalek

By Janet Sierzputowski, Public Affairs Specialist, March 2013



The Mid-Pacific Region welcomes Alex Michalek, the new Resource Manager for New Melones Lake in Calaveras and Tuolumne counties. Alex will assist the Area Manager of the Central California Area Office in managing public recreation and natural resources at New Melones.

As the Resource Manager, Alex is responsible for the management and maintenance of developed recreation areas, natural and cultural resources, visitor services and concession management at New Melones, which includes more than 30,000 surface acres of water and land and the Peoria Wildlife Management Area.

“Alex joins the Mid-Pacific Region from his previous position with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Southeast Louisiana Wildlife Refuge Complex in Lacombe, La.,” said Mary Johannis, Acting CCAO Area Manager. “Alex’s experience with natural resource and public land management, along with his supervisory experience, make him a great fit for his new position as the Resource Manager at New Melones Lake.”

Alex earned a Bachelor of Science from Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, La., and a Master of Science from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. A federal employee for 15 years, he began his career as a forestry technician and wildland firefighter with the U.S. Forest Service.

Through his work with the National Forest System and the National Wildlife Refuge System, Alex has developed an understanding of public use and federal land management, including forest management; wildfire suppression; wildlife habitat and population management; public recreation management; natural resource education, interpretation and planning; and environmental analysis. A lifelong outdoor enthusiast, Alex believes in serving the American public for the greater good of our Nation by conserving and protecting our natural and cultural resources.

New Melones is part of Reclamation’s Central Valley Project. The Flood Control Act of December 1944 authorized construction of New Melones Dam on the Stanislaus River to replace the original Melones Dam, built by the Oakdale and South San Joaquin Irrigation Districts in 1926. Completed in 1979, New Melones Dam helps alleviate flooding along the Stanislaus and Lower San Joaquin rivers. The original dam is located about a mile upstream from the current dam and is submerged under the lake. New Melones is authorized for flood protection, recreation, water supply, electric power, water quality enhancement, and fish and wildlife purposes.

Additional information on New Melones Lake, including interpretive programs, maps, and camping and marina information, is available by calling the New Melones Visitor Center and Museum at 209-536-9543 (TTY 800-877-8339) or by visiting the website at <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/ccao/newmelones/index.html>.